

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 L-03

H-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08

OMB-01 CEA-02 OPIC-12 COME-00 AGR-20 XMB-07 FRB-02

DRC-01 /162 W

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O R 151844Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6067

INFO USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

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GUATEMALA PLEASE PASS ROCAP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS EIND, EAGR, HO, US

SUBJECT: FORESTRY POLICY

REF: STATE 6844; TEGUCIGALPA 22, TEGUCIGALPA 130,
TEGUCIGALPA 149, AND TEGUCIGALPA 163

1. SUMMARY: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON EVOLVING GOH POLICY
ON FORESTRY AND LUMBER SHOULD DEVELOP WITHIN NEXT TEN DAYS.
DECREE 103 (NEWSPAPER COPY POUCHED) LEAVES MUCH AUTHORITY
TO ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION TO DETERMINE ACTUAL EFFECTS
UPON U.S. INVESTMENT INTERESTS SUCH MADERERA HIBUERAS, INC.
(STOCKHOLDERS J.T., C.W., AND S.G. ROBINSON OF NEW ORLEANS,
LA.). DE JURE OR DE FACTO EXPROPRIATION ON PART OF GOH
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REMAINS A MOOT POINT, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE

ADMINISTRATIVE FLEXIBILITY SO FAR PROVIDED UNDER DECREE 103. PRESS REPORTS THAT RICHARDO REYES, VICE MINISTER OF FINANCE, NAMED AS GENERAL MANAGER OF HONDURAN COPORATION FOR FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT (COHDEFOR). REYES, KNOWN TO EMBASSY AS COMPETENT AND RESPONSIBLE ECONOMIST, IN PROCESS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH FORESTRY AND LUMBER INTERESTS. BALANCE OF THIS CABLE SPECIFIC DATA CONCERNING ROBINSON COMPANY PROVIDED BY IT TO EMBASSY JAN. 8, 1974. END SUMMARY.

2. MADERERA HIBUERAS, INC IS INCORPORATED UNDER LAWS OF LOUISIANA AND REGISTERED TO DO BUSINESS IN HONDURAS. STOCKHOLDER NAMES LISTED ABOVE. AS OF OCT. 31 THE COMPANY HAD FOLLOWING INVESTMENT IN HONDURAS: FIXED ASSETS DEPRECIATED \$443,322; LUMBER INVESTORIES AT COST \$699,705. THE COMPANY EMPLOYS 257 PEOPLE"AT YARD IN POTRERILLOS AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE IN SAN PEDRO SULA. PRIMARY ACTIVITY OF COMPANY IS PURCHASE OF SAWN LUMBER FROM INDEPENDENT SAW MILLS, SIZING TO EXPORT DIMENSIONS AND DRYING. DURING 1973 COMPANY PURCHASED ABOUT 36 MILLION BOARD FEET FROM 25 SEPARATE SAW MILLS OF WHICH 20 OWNED BY HONDURAN NATIONALS. A TOTAL OF 14.5 MILLION BOARD FEET WAS FURTHER REMANUFACTURED AT PLANT AT POTEREILLOS. COMPANY EXPORTED DURING 1973 ABOUT 34 MILLION BOARD FEET WHICH RESULTED IN ABOUT \$4.8 MILLION OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE ENTERING IN HONDURAS. EXPORT TAXES OF \$218,136 WERE PAID. ON JAN. 10 COMPANY RECEIVED TAX ADJUSTMENT CLAIMS FOR 1971 AND 1972. FOR TWO MONTHS OF 1971 GOVERNMENT CLAIMS ADDITIONAL TAXES OF ABOUT \$31,000. FOR 1972 ADDITIONAL TAXES CLAIMED ABOUT \$389,000. SANCHEZ

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